

The University of Louisville Trager Institute presents:



ESPEC in Action: Strategies for Enhanced Practice

Two Trainings offered in 2027!

Option 1: March 27th, 2027

Option 2: September 16th, 2027

ESPEC in Action: Strategies for Enhanced Practice is an advanced, skills-based workshop designed for social workers who have completed ESPEC (Online training). Building on the foundational knowledge of primary palliative care, this interactive session focuses on translating ESPEC principles into real-world practice. Participants will strengthen their ability to lead and advocate, conduct biopsychosocial-spiritual assessments, facilitate family meetings, engage in advance care planning, and enhance interprofessional communication. Through case-based learning, reflection, and practical tools, social workers will deepen their confidence and competence in applying ESPEC skills to improve patient- and family-centered care and expand their impact within healthcare teams.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. **Apply** primary palliative social work skills to real-world clinical scenarios, including biopsychosocial-spiritual assessment, family meetings, and advance care planning.
2. **Demonstrate** effective interprofessional communication strategies that enhance collaboration, clarify roles, and improve patient- and family-centered outcomes.
3. **Facilitate** family meetings that align treatment plans with patient values, goals, and cultural context.
4. **Integrate** leadership and advocacy strategies to expand the social work role and influence within healthcare teams and systems.
5. **Utilize** structured tools and frameworks (e.g., Best Practice Guides, communication strategies) to improve consistency and quality of care delivery.
6. **Develop** practical strategies to build a sustainable practice, including reflective practice, managing moral distress, and supporting team resilience.

Delivery Format: Live Interactive Distance Learning

- Integrates the eight domains of palliative care identified by the National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care into health social work practice.
- Includes videos of patient and family encounters, interactive exercises, reflective questions, and resources for self-directed learning.

- Credits: 3.0 Clinical CE hours
- Fee: \$100

Faculty

Myra Glajchen, DSW, MSW, BSW, ACSW, APHSW-C

Myra Glajchen is Project Director for Educating Social Workers in Palliative and End-of-Life Care (ESPEC), a national training program for social workers. She is Co-Investigator for ESPEC Oncology: Transforming Psychosocial and Palliative Cancer Care, an NIH/NCI-funded grant delivering a comprehensive, oncology-tailored, evidence-based curriculum to build leadership and palliative care skills among oncology social workers nationwide. She is Director of Education and Training in the MJHS Institute and Co-Project Director of the Caregiver Initiative. She manages the Social Work Internship, Physician Fellowship, and Interprofessional Training at MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care. She is Assistant Professor of Family and Social Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Glajchen has extensive experience as a social work clinician, educator, and researcher in oncology and palliative social work. She was a board member of the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network (SWHPN), Past President for the Advanced Palliative Hospice Social Work Certification (APHSW-C), and a CE provider for Social Work in New York State. Dr. Glajchen has a distinguished teaching portfolio. She serves as core faculty for the Interprofessional Communication Curriculum (ICC) funded by the NCI. She developed ESPEC Safety Net with a focus on the social determinants of health and is launching ESPEC-O for oncology social workers. She is a frequent local and national presenter with numerous publications on caregiver burden, family meetings, interprofessional training, and palliative care.

Shirley Otis-Green, MSW, MA, ACSW, LCSW, OSW-CE, FNAP, FAOSW

Shirley Otis-Green is the founder of Collaborative Caring, a consulting practice dedicated to enhancing excellence in the delivery of contextualized care to more equitably address the symptoms and stress of serious illness. Her education, research and consultation efforts focus on quality of life, interprofessional leadership and creating meaningful organizational change. As Principal Investigator on studies with over \$3.5 million in external funding, her work has been recognized with numerous awards and disseminated through more than 100 publications and 500 professional presentations. She is a Co-Investigator and Project Co-Director of the NCI-funded educational program, "ESPEC Oncology: Transforming Psychosocial and Palliative Cancer Care." Shirley is a National Association of Social Workers Pioneer, California Health Care Foundation Leadership Fellow and a Distinguished Social Work Practitioner in the National Academies of Practice. She was among the first to receive a Master of Arts in Health Research - Palliative Care from Lancaster University in Great Britain, and is co-editor of the The Oxford Textbook of Palliative Social Work (now in its Second Edition).

Tara Schapmire, PhD, MSSW, CSW, OSW-C, APHSW-C, FAOSW, FAPOS

Tara Schapmire earned her PhD in Social Work from the University of Louisville, where she serves as Associate Professor in the School of Medicine and holds an honorary appointment in the Kent School of Social Work. Her research interests include psychosocial oncology, gerontology, palliative care, and interprofessional collaborative practice. She is Principal Investigator (PI) of ESPEC Oncology: Transforming Psychosocial and Palliative Cancer Care, an NIH/NCI-funded grant delivering a comprehensive, oncology-tailored, evidence-based curriculum to build leadership and palliative care skills among oncology social workers nationwide. She is also a co-investigator on multiple HRSA grants focused on interprofessional training in Age-Friendly Healthcare and the integration of primary care and behavioral health for learners in community health, dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work. In addition, she serves as site PI for an NCI R01 randomized clinical trial (MPI Studts & Stapleton) testing a precision lung cancer survivorship care intervention to improve quality of life among rural survivors in socioeconomically distressed U.S. regions. Her past work includes co-leading an NIH/NCI project (MPI Pfeifer/Schapmire) to prepare oncology educators in interprofessional palliative oncology education. She also served as Co-I on NIH/NCI and American Cancer Society (ACS)-funded studies, including a required interdisciplinary oncology palliative care curriculum and a study on emotional distress in older adults with cancer. Dr. Schapmire has received national recognition, including the 2017 AOSW/ACS Leadership in Oncology Social Work Award, the 2024 AOSW/ACS Quality of Life in Cancer Award, and the ACS C.A.R.E. Award. A Past President and Fellow of the Association of Oncology Social Workers, she was inducted in 2025 as a Fellow of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society. She is Associate Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Psychosocial Oncology.

Vickie Leff, MSW, LCSW, APHSW-C

Vickie Leff is a palliative care consultant. She has over 35 years of clinical practice experience in healthcare including oncology, palliative care, and hospice. She was an Interim Executive Director of the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care network (SWHPN) and was the Executive Director of the APHSW organization. Ms. Leff has published in *Health Affairs*, *JPSM*, and other journals on moral distress, debriefings, and sustainability. She is an adjunct instructor at Yeshiva University, and an advanced ESPEC trainer. Ms. Leff received her MSW from Simmons School of Social Work in Boston in 1984 and a BA in Political Science from Ithaca College.

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Co-Sponsorship: This learning activity is co-sponsored by the MJHS Institute for Innovation in Palliative Care

Continuing Education Credit Provided By:

University of Louisville Trager Institute (ASWB ACE)

ESPEC in Action: Strategies for Enhanced Practice [6742] is approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program to be offered by the **University of Louisville Trager Institute** as an individual course. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. ACE course approval period: [6/2/2026—6/2/2028]. Social workers completing this course receive 3 clinical continuing education credits.

Disclaimer: It is the responsibility of the attendee to check with their state board to determine if the ethics and/or cultural competency hours offered meet the regulations of their Board. Certificates of attendance and verification of credit will be issued to those who registered for CEs after completion of the online post-tests and course evaluations.

Target Audience: Health Social Workers and other social workers who work with those affected by serious illness

Educational Levels of Presentations: Intermediate/Advanced

Course Designations:

- Clinical

Completion Requirements:

To receive continuing education credit, participants must:

- Remain in attendance throughout the session
- Complete the required course evaluation (within the learner management system)
- Certificates of completion are made available for download (immediately) upon successful completion of all requirements.

Grievance Policy: Participants with questions, concerns, or complaints related to an ASWB ACE continuing education learning activity may submit a written grievance to the University of Louisville Trager Institute at optedu@louisville.edu. All grievances are reviewed in accordance with ASWB ACE requirements, with involvement of the Social Work Consultant and, when applicable, the interprofessional Curriculum Committee.

ADA Accessibility Statement

The University of Louisville Trager Institute is committed to providing inclusive and accessible learning experiences for all participants. Reasonable accommodations will be provided in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Participants who require accommodations to fully engage in any learning activity are encouraged to contact the Trager Institute as early as possible to discuss their needs. Requests for accommodations may be submitted to optedu@louisville.edu.

Cancellation Policy: We understand that circumstances may change. If you need to cancel your participation in the ESPEC program, please submit your cancellation request via email to optedu@louisville.edu.

If you have any questions, please contact Trager Education Manager Justin Magnuson at justin.magnuson@louisville.edu.

System Requirements and Supported Browsers

In order to make sure the course runs well, please make sure your desktop computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone, or smart device has the following:

- The most recent version of one of the web browsers listed below
- Javascript enabled
- PDF plugin
- Graphic and audio output capability
- Broadband internet connection with a minimum speed of 5Mbps (recommended)
- TLS 1.2 supported by your web browser

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